



# What's News in Placer County

Updated 4/19/06

The Public Information Officer is [Anita Yoder](#) (530-889-4012).

Assistant PIOs are: [Mike Fitch](#) (530-886-4515) & [Robert Miller](#) (530-889-4080).

[Additional background, general information and Placer County maps are available.](#)

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- [Placer County Caution Lake Tahoe Residents on the use of Alternative Heating Sources During Electrical Outages](#) (1/3/06)

The Placer County Sheriff's Department also [issues news releases](#).

For additional information, or to receive other county news releases, call the public information office at 530-889-4012. You may also find [business news](#), prepared by the Office of Economic Development.



# Update On Damage To Foresthill Road

Updated 4/19/06

Foresthill Road continues to slip, especially at the lower slide location. Two lanes are still open, and Placer County has utilized the new pavement to shift traffic off the existing lanes where the cracks continue to develop.

At the upper, location, the slide continues to move, but it is having less effect on the pavement. There has been no additional loss of pavement since the weekend.

Placer County expects the detouring of traffic through these slide zones to continue until a permanent fix can be made to stabilize the roadway at both slide locations.

Drivers are reminded that the speed limit through this area is 25 mph. Drivers are also encouraged to travel cautiously through the detour zone.

- Excess water, saturated soil and a resulting slide have damaged a stretch of Foresthill Road east of Drivers Flat Road. There are also significant cracks in the pavement about 1,000 feet from the slide area.
- One lane remains open to traffic in both directions. To help preserve two-way traffic, the Public Works Department has built a temporary lane on the westbound side of the roadway, opposite the damaged area. This temporary lane is now open.
- Motorists need to use extra caution when driving on the damaged stretch of Foresthill Road, because of lane restrictions and the presence of road crews working to repair the roadway. Some lane restrictions will likely remain in effect until permanent repairs are completed.
- Permanent repairs will take months to complete, and cannot begin until conditions dry out.
- Foresthill residents are asked to make sure they have adequate emergency

supplies in stock. With fire season just around the corner, this is a good time to review individual and family preparedness.

For a recorded message with updates on roadway conditions and the status of repair work, call 530-745-3500.

-Placer County Public Works Department and Office of Emergency Services



# Update On Damage To Foresthill Road

Updated 4/17/06

- Excess water, saturated soil and a resulting slide have damaged a stretch of Foresthill Road east of Drivers Flat Road. There are also significant cracks in the pavement about 1,000 feet from the slide area.
- One lane remains open to traffic in both directions. To help preserve two-way traffic, the Public Works Department has built a temporary lane on the westbound side of the roadway, opposite the damaged area. This temporary lane is not currently open, but is available if the road deteriorates further.
- Motorists need to use extra caution when driving on the damaged stretch of Foresthill Road, because of lane restrictions and the presence of road crews working to repair the roadway. Some lane restrictions will likely remain in effect until permanent repairs are completed.
- Permanent repairs will take months to complete, and cannot begin until conditions dry out.
- Foresthill residents are asked to make sure they have adequate emergency supplies in stock. With fire season just around the corner, this is a good time to review individual and family preparedness.

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-Placer County Public Works Department and Office of Emergency Services



# Foresthill Road Update: Road Open One Lane Each Direction

Updated 4/14/06

Placer County Public Works crews continue to focus on protecting the safety of the motorists while keeping Foresthill Road open with one lane in each direction, despite serious damage caused by recent rain storms.

Storm damage first appeared last week, including crumbling pavement and a slide that has increased in size in the eastbound lane south of Drivers Flat Road. There are also significant cracks in the pavement about 1,000 feet further down the road.

Staff is working to minimize damage to the roadway while keeping it open.

Ken Grehm, Placer County Public Works Director, announced today that repairing the storm-damaged road will take months, not days, and work on permanent solutions cannot begin until conditions dry out significantly and the roadway stabilizes.

However, Grehm noted the County has taken aggressive steps to be ready to design and implement permanent repairs as soon as it's possible. "We have hired a private contractor and a private geotechnical engineer to assist our own road crews in managing the situation," he said. "Once conditions dry out, engineers will need to determine what caused the road bed materials to slip, and then to determine how best to make permanent repairs."

"Additionally, our crews are building a temporary lane in the westbound side opposite the problem areas, which will become available now as needed, but which will become essential when permanent repairs are being made this summer."

Motorists are asked to use extra caution when driving on Foresthill Road, because of lane restrictions, potential road obstructions such as limbs or rocks, and particularly, because road crews are working to protect public safety. Some lane restrictions will likely remain

in effect until the permanent repairs are completed.

Foresthill residents are also reminded that keeping emergency supplies on hand remains essential, as storms have not ended and more road damage could further limit use of the road.

"I have had detailed conversations with the Department of Public Works about the problems with the road," said Bruce Kranz, the Board of Supervisors member who represents the Foresthill area. "Staff is out there working right now. I am confident that Ken Grehm and his staff understand the priority of keeping the public safe and keeping the road open." The Placer County Office of Emergency Services declared a local emergency on Tuesday in response to storm damages that have occurred since late March, and are asking the Governor to proclaim a state of emergency, so local government agencies can get state help in dealing with storm-related damages.

Placer County roadways in the unincorporated area have been significantly damaged by the rain and mudslides. Road crews have been working extended hours in response to roadway obstructions. Costs to public agencies continue to be rise.



# Planning Commission Postponed Meeting

Updated 4/12/06

The Placer County Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2006 has been postponed until April 27, due to the lack of a quorum. All items originally scheduled to be heard that day will be continued until April 27. This includes the Home Depot project.



# Placer County Declares Local Emergency Because Of Storms

Updated 4/12/06

Michael J. Boyle, assistant director of emergency services for Placer County, has declared a local emergency in response to storm damages that have occurred since late March.

The declaration has been forwarded to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Placer County is asking Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to proclaim a state of emergency in the county so local government agencies can get state help in dealing with flood-related damage.

Placer County roadways in unincorporated areas, particularly Foresthill Road and Ophir Road, have been significantly damaged by the rain and mudslides, which threaten the safety of people and property.

“Our road crews have been working extended hours to respond to a variety of roadway obstructions at all hours of the day and night,” said county Office of Emergency Services Program Manager Rui Cunha. “Naturally, this adds to our costs as well.”

Costs to public agencies continue to be reviewed, but so far appear to top \$1 million.

The Placer County Board of Supervisors will be asked to ratify the emergency declaration during their meeting on Tuesday, April 18.



# Highway 65 Signs Unveiled To Improve Ssafety

Updated 4/13/06

Representatives of Placer County Public Works Department, the California Highway Patrol and the California Department of Transportation gathered on Tuesday to highlight the creation of a “Stay Alive on 65” Campaign to reduce the number of traffic deaths and injuries on State Route 65 north of Lincoln.

As a first step, agency representatives unveiled one of a series of signs placed by Caltrans along the highway requiring that motorists use headlights at all times to increase visibility for both drivers and approaching motorists. Daylight headlight corridors have been an effective safety tool in other locations, creating “remarkable decreases in collisions,” according to Officer Kelly Baraga, spokesperson for the CHP.

Last year alone, Auburn Area California Highway Patrol officers responded to five fatal crashes on SR 65 that occurred north of Lincoln and killed nine people. Agency representatives saw a growing need to place additional safety measures due to the number of commuters and residents that now use this roadway.

Placer County Supervisor Robert Weygandt had requested the support of California Department of Transportation District Director Jody Jones in a letter last October. “The County, along with the CHP, has watched the recent increase in severe accidents with concern,” he said. “Both the Rural Lincoln and Sheridan Municipal Advisory Councils (MACs) have been following this issue closely,” he added, noting the importance of the regional roadway. “The section of roadway from the City of Lincoln to the Bear River is of particular concern,” he said, citing “heavy truck traffic, along with high speeds.”

The Placer County Public Works Department has created “Stay Alive on Highway 65” message cards on behalf of the agencies that are working together as the Highway 65 Safety Task Force. The message cards provide safety tips and key phone numbers regarding the roadway, and feature a drawing by a local student.

The daylight headlight requirement will extend along S.R. 65 between the City of Lincoln and the City of Wheatland, a 14-mile stretch. During the first 30 days of implementations, CHP officers will issue warnings to motorists who disregard the signs; after 30 days the officers will begin issuing citations.

"Thanks to Caltrans, CHP and our staff for working together on this critical project, which can help save lives," Supervisor Weygandt, said. "Members of the Sheridan and Lincoln MACs should also be commended for continually reminding agencies and the public of its importance."

In the months to come, other safety measures will also be considered.



# Sandbags and Sand Available at Placer County Locations

Updated 4/11/06

Although the National Weather Service has lifted an Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisory that was in place earlier this month in Placer County, significant rainfall is expected over the next few days.

No flooding has been reported in Placer County, but officials will continue to monitor the situation. Residents living near flood-prone creeks and streams should remain vigilant and monitor news and weather reports in the media. Drivers should take extra precautions since culverts sometimes overflow.

As a precaution, sand and sandbags are available for residents in the following Placer County locations:

Placer County Fire, Dry Creek Station, 8350 Cook Riolo Road;

Loomis Corporation Yard, on Taylor Road;

Placer Consolidated Fire Protection District, 11645 Atwood Road, Auburn;

California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection Station in Bowman, 13760 Lincoln Way;

South Placer Fire Protection District, 6900 Eureka Road, Granite Bay;

Placer County Fire Station in Lincoln, 401 Oak Tree Lane, Lincoln;

Placer County Fire, Paige Station, 5584 Nicolaus Road;

Placer County Fire, 4710 Fruitvale Road, Lincoln;

Placer County Fire, 4952 Riosa Road, Sheridan

North Tahoe Fire Protection District Stations at 4225 West Lake Blvd.,  
Homewood (behind the station); and North Tahoe FPD Station at 288 North Lake  
Blvd. at Kings Beach (Hwy. 267 at 28);

Placer County Public Works, 2501 North Lake Blvd. (Burton Creek) (behind the  
Sheriff's substation);

(Old) Squaw Valley Fire Station (now Lake Tahoe Board of Realtors) 1810 Squaw  
Valley Rd.;

Northstar At Tahoe, Northstar Community Services District Corporation Yard, 50  
Trimont Lane, Truckee.

CDF Fire Station at 24020 Fowler Road, Colfax;

CDF Fire Station at 33333 Alta Forestry Road in Alta.



# Weather Delays Start of Bridge Work

Updated 4/4/06

Work on the replacement of a bridge on Nicolaus near the Sutter/Placer County line, originally scheduled to begin April 1, has been delayed. Inclement weather has pushed back the start of the bridge work until April 17.

Traffic on Nicolaus Road between Dowd Road and Pleasant Grove Road, near the Sutter/Placer County line, will be rerouted through June 1, 2006. This closure will be performed by Placer County Department of Public Works for a bridge replacement.

The detour will route westbound traffic south from Nicolaus Road along Dowd Road to Moore Road, west along Moore Road to Pleasant Grove Road, and north along Pleasant Grove Road to Nicolaus. Eastbound traffic will be routed south from Nicolaus Road along Pleasant Grove Road to Moore Road, east along Moore Road to Dowd Road, and north along Dowd Road to Nicolaus.

During that period, both eastbound and westbound traffic along Nicolaus Road between Dowd Road and Brewer Road will be open to local traffic only. Nicolaus Road will have a hard closure (no traffic allowed) between Pleasant Grove Road and Brewer Road.

The existing bridge, built in the 1930s has exceeded its lifespan and is in need of replacement. The replacement bridge is pre-cast and awaiting transportation from Lodi for installation. The existing bridge and its footings will be removed and new footings built. The new bridge will then be lowered into place with a crane. The area around the new bridge will be backfilled and new approaches built, which will put the new bridge about a foot higher than the existing bridge.

The existing, single-lane bridge has an 11-foot lane. This will become a two-lane bridge with 12-foot lanes and two, four-foot shoulders.



# Placer County Hires New Economic Development Director

Updated 3/29/06

A state economic development official with many years of experience helping recruit companies for California has been named Placer County's director of economic development.

David Snyder currently is a senior project manager with California Business Investment Services, a unit of the state Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

He will replace Ed Graves, who retired in February after serving as county economic development director since 1994.

Snyder has been with state Business Investment Services since 2003 and has spent the last 16 years in state service. In 2002, he worked as a supervisory staff development specialist in the state Office of Military Base Retention and Reuse and, from 1995-2001, he was deputy director at the Office of Major Corporate Projects, a part of the California Trade and Commerce Agency.

"David's experience at both the state and local levels will be invaluable to Placer County," County Executive Officer Thomas M. Miller said.

"His contacts throughout the business world will help us attract the kinds of companies we need to provide high-quality jobs for our rapidly growing population and to maintain our high quality of life. Placer County's Office of Economic Development is recognized statewide for its outstanding work. I'm convinced David will maintain, and indeed reinforce that reputation."

A Folsom resident, Snyder has worked in the economic development field since he graduated from Rutgers University in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in planning and community development. Most of his experience is at the state level, but his resume

includes seven years at the county level, one with a city and three with private-sector real estate development companies.

“I look forward with great anticipation to joining the Placer County economic development team,” Snyder said. “The top requirements for business today are human resources and the environment for employees. Placer County offers growing companies and their employees an unsurpassed environment in which to live and work.”

Snyder earned the title certified economic developer in 1984 by completing a program offered at the Graduate Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma.



# Nicholaus Road Closure Planned Due To Bridge Replacement

Updated 3/27/06

Traffic on Nicolaus Road between Dowd Road and Pleasant Grove Road, near the Sutter/Placer County line, will be rerouted from April 01, 2006 through June 01, 2006. This closure will be performed by Placer County Department of Public Works for a bridge replacement.

The detour will route westbound traffic south from Nicolaus Road along Dowd Road to Moore Road, west along Moore Road to Pleasant Grove Road, and north along Pleasant Grove Road to Nicolaus. Eastbound traffic will be routed south from Nicolaus Road along Pleasant Grove Road to Moore Road, east along Moore Road to Dowd Road, and north along Dowd Road to Nicolaus.

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The existing, single-lane bridge has an 11-foot lane. This will become a two-lane bridge with 12-foot lanes and two, four-foot shoulders.



# Local Indian Gaming Grant Application Period Closes In A Week

Updated 3/17/06

Placer County's Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee (LCBC) will stop accepting applications for grants to local government agencies to mitigate the effects of tribal gaming on Friday, March 24, 2006, at 5 p.m.

The grant funds will come from the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund established by the state and based on an assessment on tribal gaming machines that were in place prior to 1999. In Placer County, grant funding this year is expected to total about \$470,000. The 2005 grant total was \$383,000.

Applications and additional information are available on the Placer County web site, [http://www.placer.ca.gov/committees/comit\\_comish/indian-gaming-local-community-benefit-commit.htm](http://www.placer.ca.gov/committees/comit_comish/indian-gaming-local-community-benefit-commit.htm). Agencies may also call the Placer County Executive Office at 530-889-4042.

The LCBC, in conjunction with the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC), will recommend to the State Controller's Office on what applications should be awarded grants. Priorities for funding have been established by the state, and include such things as law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services, environmental impacts, youth programs, health, water supplies, waste disposal and roads. The County, its cities, and special districts within the County affected by tribal gaming are eligible to apply for grants.

On Feb. 8, during the LCBC's first meeting of 2006, Roseville Mayor Pro Tem Rocky Rockholm was elected chairman. Other committee members include Placer County Supervisors Robert Weygandt and Bruce Kranz; Rocklin council member Brett Storey, who served as the 2005 chairman; Lincoln Mayor Ray Sprague; UAIC Tribal Chairperson Jessica Tavares; Julie Huff, the UAIC Tribal Vice Chairperson who was elected as LCBC Vice Chair in 2005; and Howard Dickstein, LCBC alternate member, and counsel to the

UAIC.



# Animal Shelter Takes in a Ranch Full of Animals

Updated 3/8/06

The Placer County Animal Shelter is now the temporary home to a flock of livestock and exotic animals that were taken into protective custody after the death of their owner earlier this month. The deceased owner was something of a “Dr. Doolittle” in Placer County.

The animals were cared for by Bill Allen, who kept them on a five-acre parcel in rural Lincoln. Since his death, they have been housed at the Animal Shelter in Auburn. The animals include: a horse, a donkey, two llamas, two goats named Mischief and Mary, a sheep named Barbarosa, two pot bellied pigs, three geese, a turkey, 10 chickens, a parrot, a cockatiel and a cat.

“We don’t usually receive that many exotic animals from one source,” said Animal Control Manager Mike Winters. “Especially ones that have been this well cared for.”

Animal Services dispatch received a call from the County Coroner’s office on March 3, notifying them that the owner had passed away that day and there was apparently no one to care for the animals. Animal Control Officers (ACO) Ben Branaugh and Rick Stout traveled to the ranch to assess the situation. The animals were fed and watered and secured for the evening.

The next morning Branaugh and Stout were joined by fellow ACO Joe Spera, Winters, Animal Care Supervisor Cindy Leonard, Animal Care Technician Bob Payne and Senior Administrative Clerk Linda Webb. The crew then spent six hours rounding up the animals, loading them into trailers and transporting them to Auburn. The caravan made several trips between Lincoln and Auburn to ferry the menagerie to the Shelter.

At the Lincoln location, some of the animals were herded into a chute made of panels that are kept on each Animal Services truck. At the end of the chute was one of the two

trailers used to move the animals to Auburn. Others were rounded up and safely placed in the trailers for transport from Lincoln to Auburn.

“It was actually a lot of fun to gather the animals,” said Leonard. “Even when I had to wrestle with the last goat who did not want to get in the trailer.”

Currently, the female llama shares a paddock with her pasture buddy, the male Barbados sheep. The male llama, which is the father of the female, is now being kept in a paddock adjacent to the donkey and the horse, who is an older animal and more of a pasture buddy than a riding animal.

During the roundup of the Lincoln animals, Animal Services staff learned that there was a domestic indoor cat at the house and conducted a room-by-room search which initially proved unsuccessful until staff turned over a sofa and found the cat hiding inside the springs.

A search for next of kin is being conducted to determine if any relative wishes to adopt any of the animals. If that search proves unsuccessful, ownership of the animals will transfer to the county after the legal waiting period has expired. At that point, the animals will have been assessed for temperament and given veterinary examinations. If the animals are suitable, they will then be placed for adoption.

“We may have some difficulty finding homes for some of these animals,” said Winters. “We know there are homes out there, so we want to get the word out that these animals may become available in a couple of weeks.”

Those interested in possibly adopting the animals are encouraged to visit the Animal Shelter and view them and, fill out an adoption application. The prospective adoptive families will be evaluated so that if any of the animals are put up for adoption, they go to the best suitable home.

The Placer County Animal Shelter is located at 11251 B Ave, in Auburn. The telephone number is (530) 886-5500. Shelter hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. for adoptions, and Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. until 7 p.m. for adoptions. The shelter is also open Saturdays from 10:30 to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. for adoptions. Visit the Animal Services website at <http://www.placer.ca.gov/animal/animal.htm>



# Sand and Sandbags Available to Tahoe Residents

Updated 2/27/06

Placer County, North Lake Tahoe, Squaw Valley and Northstar fire districts are making sand and sandbags available to North Lake Tahoe residents. Providing sand and sandbags is a precautionary measure. The Tahoe area is experiencing a wet storm, with rain falling in the Tahoe Basin.

Bags and sand are available at:

- North Tahoe Fire Protection District Station 52 288 North Lake Blvd., Kings Beach, Calif. (at the junction of Highways 267 and 28)
- Placer County Department of Public Works 2501 North Lake Blvd. Burton Creek Facility Tahoe City, Calif. (behind the Sheriff's station, at the top of the driveway)
- Homewood Fire Station 4225 West Lake Blvd. Homewood, Calif. (behind the station)
- Lake Tahoe Board of Realtors 1810 Squaw Valley Road Squaw Valley, Calif.
- Northstar At Tahoe Northstar Community Services District Corp. Yard 50 Trimont Lane Truckee, Calif.

Those who wish to pick up sand and bags need to bring their own shovel. For further information, please contact your local fire station. Additional, up-to-date information will be posted on the Placer County website: [www.placer.ca.gov](http://www.placer.ca.gov)



# Placer County Residents/Businesses May Apply For Assistance Following New Year's Weekend Storms

Updated 2/17/06

Placer County homeowners, renters and non-farm businesses that experienced uninsured losses because of storms and power outages New Year's weekend are eligible to apply for Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster assistance.

People in Placer County are eligible because of an SBA declaration of adverse impacts of the storm to Washoe County, in the State of Nevada, a county contiguous to Placer.

This assistance, generally in the form of long-term, low-interest loans, can cover either physical or economic injury losses. Physical losses in Placer County have included such things as flooded equipment and water damage to buildings. Such things as the closure of businesses, loss of sales and spoiled food due to the storms or power outages comprise economic injury losses.

People wishing to apply for assistance should contact the Small Business Administration at 1-800-659-2955, or TTY 1-800-877-8339 (for people with hearing or speech impairments). Callers should reference "Nevada's severe storm/flooding event", or "Disaster Declaration 10370" for physical damage or "Disaster Declaration 10371" for economic injury. The storm-related losses must have occurred between Dec. 30, 2005 and January 4, 2006. Contact by phone is mandatory to begin the application process, however some information about the process may be available on the SBA web site, [www.sba.gov/disaster\\_recov/index.html](http://www.sba.gov/disaster_recov/index.html). Homeowners, renters and non-farm businesses in all parts of Placer County are eligible to apply. In the days following the storms, those affected were asked to call one of several local government agencies to report their losses. Callers should now call SBA instead, and should apply whether they had previously contacted Placer County or not. Loan applications for physical damage are due April 11, 2006, while loan applications for economic injury are due Nov. 13, 2006.

Following the storms, Placer County declared a local state of emergency, and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger had included Placer in a state declaration of emergency. This state declaration made local government, such as the county, cities and special districts, eligible for some kinds of state assistance with such things as debris removal, emergency response and infrastructure repair costs the government incurred. Nearly \$2 million in estimated local losses have been identified so far, primarily to local government infrastructure.



# Local Indian Gaming Grant Application Period Opens

Updated 2/16/06

AUBURN, CALIF. -- Placer County's Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee (LCBC) will begin accepting applications today for grants to local government agencies to mitigate the effects of tribal gaming.

The grant funds will come from the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund established by the state and are based on an assessment on tribal gaming machines that were in place prior to 1999. In Placer County, grant funding this year is expected to total about \$470,000. The 2005 grant total was \$383,000.

Applications and additional information are available on the Placer County [web site](#). Agencies may also call the Placer County Executive Office at 530-889-4042. Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on March 24, 2006.

The LCBC, in conjunction with the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC), will recommend to the State Controller's Office on what applications should be awarded grants. Priorities for funding have been established by the state, and include such things as law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services, environmental impacts, youth programs, health, water supplies, waste disposal and roads. The County, its cities, and special districts within the County affected by tribal gaming are eligible to apply for grants.

On Feb. 8, during the LCBC's first meeting of 2006, Roseville Mayor Pro Tem Rocky Rockholm was elected chairman. Other committee members include Placer County Supervisors Robert Weygandt and Bruce Kranz; Rocklin council member Brett Storey, who served as the 2005 chairman; Lincoln Mayor Ray Sprague; UAIC Tribal Chairperson Jessica Tavares; Julie Huff, the UAIC Tribal Vice Chairperson who was elected as LCBC Vice Chair in 2005; and Howard Dickstein, LCBC alternate member, and counsel to the UAIC.





# New Chief Assistant County Executive Officer Named

Updated 2/10/06

Rich Colwell has been appointed to the newly created position of Placer County Chief Assistant Executive Officer. The appointment was made by County Executive Officer Thomas Miller and was confirmed as the Board of Supervisors approved a reorganization plan in January. Colwell, a life-long Penryn resident and seventeen-year County manager, has most recently been serving as a Deputy County Executive Officer responsible for directing the Redevelopment Agency and as the Director of the Department of Administrative Service.

In his new position, Colwell will oversee county operations in Miller's absence and will provide policy direction and operational oversight of several county functions including the Sheriff, District Attorney, Probation, Courts, Public Defender, Health and Human Services, Veterans Services, and the Public Information Office. He will continue to serve as the Director of the Redevelopment Agency and will assume oversight responsibility for the Office of Economic Development as well.

"Rich Colwell's many years experience in managing local government as well as his innovative approach to problem solving in both the public and private sectors made him the right choice as the Chief Assistant CEO," noted CEO Miller.

Colwell has worked at Placer County since 1989 when he was hired as the Director of Management Information Services. Prior to that he worked for several years as the West Coast Senior Consulting Services Manager for a large private sector firm. He is a graduate of Del Oro High School and holds a Masters Degree in Public Policy from San Francisco State University and a bachelor's degree in Public Administration from UCLA.

He has been very active in the community, serving on the Placer County Board of Education for the past 21 years, the Penryn Fire District Board for eight years and the Child Abuse Prevention Council for six years. He and his wife Nancy also work with the

youth at the First United Methodist Church in Loomis.

" I am very pleased to be given this opportunity to work closely with Tom Miller and the Board of Supervisors to implement their goals of improving our local communities," stated Colwell. "Since I was fortunate enough to grow up here, there is no job more satisfying then assisting in the development of employment opportunities, improving public safety and human resource services and maintaining the quality of life which makes Placer County such a special place to live."



# Warm Weather Pattern Restricting Permissive Burn Days

Updated 2/9/06

AUBURN, CALIF. -- The Placer County Air Pollution Control District is reminding residents that residential burning is only allowed on permissive-burn days.

Burn days typically are declared when weather conditions readily disperse smoke. The current run of warm-weather days is expected to continue into the coming weekend. High-pressure weather systems that cause warmer weather act like a lid to hold smoke rather than allowing it to disperse. Burning on such days can cause smoke nuisances. Burn days are determined by the California Air Resources Board and are based on meteorological conditions and forecasts. To find out whether burning is permitted on a particular day, residents may call 530-889-6868 if they live within 12 miles of Auburn. A toll-free number is available for residents outside the Auburn area: 1-800-998-2876. Burn-day information is updated by 8:00 a.m. daily.

When burn days resume, the APCD would like to remind residents of the requirements for residential burning. The APCD doesn't require people to obtain permits for residential burning, but some local fire agencies require permits year-round.

Before burning residential vegetation, residents should contact their local fire departments to find out whether they need permits.

Checking with fire agencies is particularly important in the City of Auburn and community of Granite Bay because they have distinct requirements for burning.

Generally, residential burning is limited to single-family or two-family lots where the vegetation originated. Permissible materials for burning include:

dry leaves;

pine needles;

tree trimmings; and

weeds.

Burning of large objects such as stumps or wet material such as leaves or pine needles should be avoided because they tend to produce smoldering, lingering fires with a tremendous amount of smoke, which can offend others and significantly reduce air quality. Keep burn piles covered with a tarp to keep them dry and free from dirt.

Another option for managing unwanted vegetation is a free chipping service managed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, which serves under contract as the Placer County Fire Department. To reach the chipping service, call 530-889-0111 Ext. 3.

For more information, contact the district at 530-889-7130.



# Food Certification Classes to be Held in Tahoe

Updated 2/9/06

Placer County Health and Human Services Environmental Health Division will be holding two Food Certification classes in North Lake Tahoe to teach food service workers and managers how to make sure food is prepared and stored safely.

By law, each food preparation facility in California is required to have at least one person who has been certified through this program or one that is similar.

"These classes are part of our outreach and education program to the food preparation industry," noted Richard Brown, Supervising Environmental Health Specialist with Placer County Environmental Health. "Taking the class will also help food preparation facility managers understand our restaurant inspection program, and the importance of food safety for their customers and the community."

Both classes will take place at the TART Conference Center at 870 Cabin Creek Road (off Highway 89 between Truckee and Tahoe City) from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. One class will take place this month, on Thursday, February 23. A second class is planned for Thursday, April 27.

Class fees total \$85, and pre-registration is strongly suggested since class size is limited. Participants may pay their fees and pick up their books at either the North Lake Tahoe Environmental Health Office, 565 West Lake Blvd. in Tahoe City, or the Auburn office, 11546 B Avenue in the DeWitt Government Center.

The class will be taught in English. However, Spanish-language materials can be ordered upon request. Time must be allowed for materials to be delivered.

People seeking additional information about the program should contact Rudy Aguilar at 530-745-2300 weekdays.





# Get Your Flu Shot, It's Not Too Late

Updated 1/20/06

Although the flu season can peak any time from November through May, it usually peaks in February, so getting a shot now may not be too late.

Are you 50 or older? Do you have a chronic health problem or live with or care for someone who does? Do you live with or care for a child less than 6 months of age? Are you pregnant? Are you a health care worker or an employee of a residence for persons in groups at high risk? If you answered yes to any of these questions and have not already had your flu shot you may receive one for \$10 from one of the following Placer County Community Clinics.

- In Roseville on Wednesday from 8:30 am to 4 p.m at 1130 Conroy Lane, Suite 402. Closed 12-1. (916) 784-6444
- In Auburn on Fridays, 8:30am to 4pm, at 11583 C Avenue, DeWitt Center. Closed 12-1. (530) 889-7215
- In Tahoe area on Thursdays, 8:30am to 4 pm, at 8665 Salmon Ave, Kings Beach. Closed 12-1 (530) 546-1970

Children at high risk may also go to one of Placer County's Walk-In Immunization Clinics without an appointment. High-risk groups include: children 6 to 23 months old; children 2-18 years old who are on long-term aspirin therapy or have a chronic medical condition such as diabetes, asthma, heart disease, kidney disease, severe anemia or immune disorder; children 2 to 18 years old who live in homes with children younger than six months, or older children who provide care to these young children.

Please call the County's flu-line, 530-889-7161, or check the [web site](#) for more information.

You can help protect yourself and others from the flu and other illnesses by using these

precautions:

- Stay home when you are sick to avoid the spread of infection to co-workers and friends.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, your sleeve, or your elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands with soap and hot water or hand sanitizer to help protect yourself from germs. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Stay healthy by eating healthy foods, drinking plenty of water, exercising, and getting plenty of rest.



# Grant Applications Still Being Accepted

Updated 1/20/06

Placer County Health and Human Services Strength and Asset Promotion program is seeking applications from schools and community organizations interested in developing programs that promote and foster healthy youth development to prevent the use of alcohol and other drugs. Programs must promote safe environments, building positive relationships, youth driven activities or meaningful work. Funding is available through the state Friday Night Live program.

Applications must address building positive partnerships between adults and youth. Additionally, it should define how activities will provide opportunities for meaningful participation by youth in a caring, supportive, and fun atmosphere. Grant activities may include youth leadership, community service/ social action, or building skills, attitudes, knowledge and experiences that prepare youth for the present and future.

Applications must be received by January 31, 2006. For more information please contact any one of the following individuals in the Strength and Asset Promotion program. Shari Crow at (530) 889-7238. Kara Sutter or Amy Gonnella at (530) 889-7179.



# Santucci Takes Over As Chairman of Board of Supervisors

Updated 1/18/06

The Placer County Board of Supervisors recently elected First District Supervisor Bill Santucci as its Chairman for 2006. District 5 Supervisor Bruce Kranz was elected vice-chairman. Both officers were confirmed by unanimous votes.

Santucci's first act as chairman was to acknowledge his predecessor, District 2 Supervisor Robert Weygandt.

"For those people who wanted to address the Board, you gave them the opportunity to do that," Santucci said of Weygandt. "You treated them with dignity and respect. The public appreciated that and so did we."

"Supervisor Santucci has had a long and distinguished career in public service. The citizens of District 1 and Placer County have been well represented," said District 3 Supervisor Jim Holmes, who nominated Santucci for the Chairmanship. "While he has always been concerned with the welfare of Placer County, he has never forgotten the individual citizen who needed his help."

Santucci, who's First District includes portions of Roseville, said he hopes to keep moving the major projects already in the review process. These projects include two universities, including a state university, and three community developments in western Placer County.

Supervisor Santucci took office in 1995. Running unopposed in 1998 and 2002, he was re-elected to additional four-year terms. He has twice previously served as Board Chair. The lifelong Roseville resident worked for Pacific Gas & Electric, McClellan Field and 20 years at the Aerojet General Liquid Rocket Company. After that, he ran a family business for 13 years.

Before becoming a County Supervisor, Santucci served on and chaired both the Roseville Project Review Committee and the Roseville Planning Commission. He also served for a year on Roseville's Personnel Board. He was first appointed to the Roseville City Council, and then elected for two terms, serving four years as mayor.



# Board of Supervisors and Water Agency Board Consider Adoption of Joint Management Agreement

Updated 3/29/06

AUBURN, CA - The Placer County Board of Supervisors and the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) Board of Directors will meet in joint session Tuesday January 10, 2006 to finalize an historic agreement for future financial management of the [Middle Fork American River Project](#).

The Middle Fork Project (MFP) is a system of dams and waterways built in the 1960s to provide water to Placer County users and to generate electrical power, currently distributed through Pacific Gas and Electric. The Water Agency is responsible for working with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to relicense the project when the current license expires in 2013. PCWA and the Board of Supervisors will be responsible for approving new contracts for the sale of Middle Fork Project electrical energy.

The new agreement would create a Joint Powers Agency, named the Middle Fork Project Finance Authority, as a financial management framework for those tasks. Two elected officials from each entity will serve on the Authority with staff support from the agencies. The federal relicensing process is costly and complex, and will be the Authority's primary focus until completed. Costs for relicensing will be financed through debt and repaid from MFP power sales after 2013.

PCWA was formed by a special act of the Legislature in 1957 to protect the water resources of the county. The Agency owns and operates Middle Fork Hydroelectric Project through an elected Board of Directors, and both boards must agree on sales of power.

By a 25 to 1 margin, Placer County voters approved \$140 million in revenue bonds to

build the water project in 1961. The water and power project includes four reservoirs, seven dams and five hydroelectric power plants, and was the first project of its kind to be owned and operated by residents of a California county.

"Our residents showed tremendous vision in building this project which manages water and creates energy from the American and Rubicon rivers for farms, homes and businesses," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Robert Weygandt. "It is critical to the success of our county."

"Creating the Middle Fork Project Finance Authority has been a very important and helpful exercise in that both agencies will now be cooperating fully to get licensing done," noted Alex Ferreira, Chairman of Placer County Water Agency and a former Board of Supervisors member. "Treasurer Tax Collector Jenine Windeshausen has been extremely helpful in putting together the two agencies in a meaningful way."

The PCWA Board and the Placer County Board of Supervisors both represent all geographic areas of the county and have the same district boundaries.

The joint meeting will take place at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in the County Administrative Center, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, Auburn. Placer County Supervisors will also receive a briefing on the issue at their regular meeting in the same location which begins at 9 a.m.



# **Public Agencies Estimate Storms Cost More Than \$1 Million; County Needs to Hear From Individuals, Bussinesses and Farmers With Damage**

Updated 1/6/06

Estimates of storm-related costs incurred by Placer County and other local governments over the New Year's weekend exceed \$1 million already and are expected to rise rapidly in coming days.

Program Manager Rui Cunha of the county's Office of Emergency Services reported Thursday that the county and other local agencies still are busy estimating damage to roads, public buildings, parks and other public facilities, as well as manpower costs from the hundreds of government workers who helped protect residents and property during the storms.

Cunha noted the preliminary estimate has passed \$1 million even though he doesn't have totals yet from some local government agencies. The preliminary damage assessment must be completed by next Tuesday to meet state and federal deadlines.

Cunha emphasized the county also needs to hear from property owners, businesses, farmers and ranchers who suffered damages during the storm. That information will help government officials compile a comprehensive estimate of storm-related costs in Placer County and could be useful if the federal government declares California counties ravaged by last weekend's storms a disaster area.

If a federal emergency is declared, property owners, businesses, farmers and ranchers who sustained damages may be eligible for financial assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"We don't know if they will be eligible for individual assistance, but their calls will assist

us in making the case for individual assistance by helping establish the scale of the damage,” Cunha said.

Individual property owners with storm-related damage are asked to call the county Office of Emergency Services at 530-886-5310. Callers will be asked about the nature of their damages, cost estimates and whether property losses are covered by insurance.

Businesses are asked to contact the county Office of Economic Development at 530-889-4016.

Farmers and ranchers are asked to call the office of county Agricultural Commissioner Christine E. Turner at 530-889-7372.

Cunha noted local damage could have been much greater, crediting local emergency agencies with preparing before the storms arrived, responding quickly when last weekend’s storms hit and working closely with the public.

“I think we did a good job as a community of anticipating the impacts of this flood,” he said.



# **Placer County Cautions Lake Tahoe Residents on use of Alternative Heating Sources During Electrical Outages**

Updated 1/3/06

TAHOE CITY, CALIF. – In the aftermath of the severe storms over the New Year's weekend, many residential areas at Lake Tahoe remain without electrical power, or will experience intermittent power outages for the next 24 to 48 hours. The Placer County Office of Emergency Services is reminding Lake Tahoe residents to use caution if they are using alternative heating sources.

Carbon monoxide poisoning can become a threat when snow piles up against vents for gas heaters and wood stoves. When vents become clogged with snow or ice, carbon monoxide can accumulate and pose a serious health threat.

"Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless gas that can be deadly," said Dr. Richard J. Burton, the Placer County health officer. "It can pose a real danger if basic precautions are not followed."

Precautions include ensuring venting is cleared of obstructions and making sure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working. Heating with improperly vented devices or using fuels not designed for home heating, such as charcoal briquettes, should be avoided.

Dr. Burton also reminds all county residents to be aware of the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, which include nausea, headaches and mental confusion. Residents should seek medical assistance promptly if symptoms occur.

As snow levels increase with subsequent storms, residents should clear snow and ice accumulations from around vents. Snow should also be cleared from connections and piping to propane tanks to prevent potential explosions.

Ash from wood and pellet stoves should be disposed of properly to prevent fires. Ashes should be kept in metal or other non-combustible containers and never placed on decks, in garbage containers, dumpsters or other places where the ashes could start a fire.

The weekend storms have downed many utility lines and poles. Any downed line should be considered a live electric line. Anyone finding a downed line should avoid contact and call 911.